

June 2019

# Notes providing identification of persons and places mentioned in letter from William P. Gould to Eden Brashears, February 14, 1821

William P. Gould

Eden Brashears

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## Recommended Citation

Gould, William P. and Brashears, Eden, "Notes providing identification of persons and places mentioned in letter from William P. Gould to Eden Brashears, February 14, 1821" (2019). *Evans Collection*. 9.  
<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/evans/9>

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Choctaw - early

Notes providing partial identification of persons and places mentioned in letter from William P. Gould to Eden Brashears, February 14, 1821:

Eden Brashears was one of those who operated "stands" or taverns along the Natchez Trace. An act to incorporate the Planters Society in Claiborne County (1809) lists Eden Brashears among members. The Society was established "for the purpose of being enabled to bargain contract and purchase for their own use their annual supplies either at New Orleans or elsewhere on such terms as the said Society or a majority thereof shall agree upon..." (Source: Journal of Miss. History).

John McKee, a cousin of Sam Houston, was an Indian agent and congressman. Born in Rockbridge County, Virginia (1771), McKee attended Liberty Hall Academy (later Washington and Lee University). Governor Blount of Tennessee appointed him commissioner to the Cherokees when he was but twenty-one years old. He signed treaties with the Choctaws in 1801 and 1805 and helped negotiate the 1816 Choctaw Treaty. Governor Claiborne received a note in 1802 from McKee, then agent to the Choctaws, complaining about whites moving beyond the established limit for such settlements. In 1813, it was partially in response to a letter from (then) Co. McKee that General Flournoy, sent to quell a Choctaw uprising, decided his forces were inadequate for the expedition and returned to New Orleans. McKee represented the Tuscaloosa District in Congress in 1823; then, seven years later, was one of the commissioners sent to negotiate the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. With George Matthews, former Governor of Georgia, he arranged with Spanish Governor Vizente Folch for the peaceful surrender of West Florida to the United States. McKee is said to have been legally married to an Indian, not an uncommon occurrence of the time and place. Papers and a diary of McKee were in the possession of J. McKee Gould of Boligee, Alabama. His death date, Aug. 12, 1832, is established from an entry in the journal of William P. Gould. (Sources: Dictionary of American Biography, Claiborne).

Puckshunubbee was a Choctaw chief who exercised considerable control over the tribe in the early years of the Nineteenth Century. It is reported that "even the Six Towns (in what is now Jasper County), a most warlike part of the Choctaw nation, never disputed the council of Puckshunubbee." He arrived at the meeting which resulted in the Treaty of Doaks Stand (1820) with Pushmatah, who succeeded him as chief. Puckshunubbee was the most adamant of the Indians during negotiations but finally agreed to the offer of Andrew Jackson. (Sources: DeRosier, Claiborne).

Hill of Howth, John McKee's plantation home near Boligee, Alabama, was built in 1818. McKee died there in 1832. (Source: Dictionary of American Biography).



William P. Gould remains an enigma. Thus far, the only information concerning Gould comes from the D.A.B. entry for McKee in which he is called McKee's friend and heir. No William Gould is listed in the Mississippi census for 1820 or 1830.

Sources consulted:

Goodspeed  
Rowland  
Claiborne  
McLemore  
~~McLemore~~  
DeRosier  
Chambers' Biog. Dictionary  
Webster's Biog. Dictionary  
Dictionary of American Biography  
Journal of Miss. History  
Mississippi Census, 1820 and 1830.



Choctaw Agency

Feb. 14.

Eden Brashears Esq.

Port Gibson

Should Mr. Brashears not be in the neighborhood  
of Port Gibson, the Postmaster is requested to  
forward this letter to Natchez --



Choctaw Agency

February 14, 1821

My dear Brasheard<sup>s</sup>

I have been compelled at last to appoint the 10th day of March for delivering the Annuity. -- It is now stored at Dean's near the Line, and I must depend upon your advice and experience to determine how I am now to proceed. -- How far over the Line would you recommend having the goods hauled, and do you think any measures can be taken to prevent the Indians from getting whiskey. -- The friends of Puckshunnubbee are very much afraid that the ill will a great many of the Choctaws bear their Chief, would amount to something serious if they should get drunk and be displeased at his arrangements for the distribution of the goods. -- Jemmy Harrison was here yesterday and told me he should consider old Puck in danger of losing his life unless they could be kept sober until after the business was finished. --

I sincerely hope your business will allow you to assist me at the distribution -- and in the mean time I shall be extremely obliged to you for any advice on the subject. -- I have not heard from you for a long time -- and am ignorant whether you have yet returned from Natchez -- but I shall hope to hear from you soon in answer to this. --

Colo McKee has written to me twice since he arrived at the Hill of Houth -- he is delighted with the situation -- but from what he says of the neighborhood, I think it is not much preferable



to the one he left. -- I have heard nothing from Washington since the news of the ratification of the Choctaw Treaty -- who is to be Agent, or when he will get here, the Lord only knows. -- The Colo.<sup>s</sup> appointment as Register was long since confirmed by the Senate -- and I thought of course one appointment would soon follow the other -- but thus far I have been disappointed. -- I think I never in my life was placed in so disagreeable a situation -- if I knew how long I was to remain here, I could make up mind to bear it patiently -- but I am looking every day for news -- and the state of suspense I can assure you is extremely unpleasant.

Pray write me soon -- and believe me

Sincerely your friend --

Wm P  
Gould

Eden Brashears Esq.